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Letter dated 16 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the Finnish Government's grave concern over the detention of a Finnish military observer in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) on 15 May by members of an armed group in the Golan Heights. Finland calls upon the Security Council to exert all efforts to ensure the safety and security of UNTSO personnel and to take necessary steps to avoid similar attacks on UNTSO in the future. In this regard, we also call upon members of the Council to use their influence on all parties to the conflict in Syria.

Finland is fully committed to the important work of UNTSO in order for the mission to be able it to fulfil its mandate.

Furthermore, Finland calls upon the Security Council to exert all efforts to ensure the operative capability of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in order to facilitate the provision of needed protection to UNTSO. When the mandate of UNDOF is renewed in June, the safety and security of both operations should be considered carefully.

In the event that a similar incident involving military observers or peacekeepers occurs in any United Nations peacekeeping mission, Finland asks the Security Council to ensure that a mechanism is in place that guarantees open, active and transparent communication between troop-contributing countries and the Council.

I have the further honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jarmo **Viinanen**
Permanent Representative

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